



MINISTERS ASK FOR NEW POLICE BOARD.

Southern Methodist Pastors Want an Excise Commissioner Free From Bias.

RESOLUTION LONG DISCUSSED.

Only One Vote Against It on Account of Wording—Duties of the Church Are Considered at Length.

You really should get into the habit of reading Famous ads—not only this one—but all of them—every day. They're live news—interesting and profitable reading. They tell of the newest fashions—the best qualities and fairest prices.

The best news to-day is about a new line of Men's Suits at \$10.

Single and double-breasted—choice colors—silk linings—waistcoats and jackets of worsteds—all finely tailored—fitting with easy grace—not equality anywhere else at the price.

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HARD PROBLEMS BEFORE ASSEMBLY.

Illinois Legislature Will Consider the Municipal Ownership of Public Utilities.

ATTITUDE OF BOTH PARTIES.

Democrats Pledged to Support Public Control—Chicago Formulates a Bill Relative to Street Railways.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.
Springfield, Ill., Dec. 17.—The coming Legislature will have many problems to solve, and one of the most intricate and difficult will be in regard to municipal ownership of public utilities. Illinois municipalities now have legislative authority to establish and maintain waterworks, and most of them have taken advantage of it.

There is a vast demand now for municipalities to own and run all corporations embracing the civil and utility needs of its citizens—principally street car lines, gas and electric light plants.

The Democratic party of the State is undoubtedly pledged to the proposition, with a referendum attachment.

The State convention, which met this year, last June, delivered this resolution:

"Resolved by the preachers of the St. Louis District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and by the preachers of the Southern District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and by the Honorable A. M. Dickey, the incoming chairman of Missouri, to appoint at an early day a new Excise Commissioner and a new board of assessors for the city of St. Louis, who are in no wise allied with the higher interests."

There was only one negative vote, that of the Reverend G. D. Smart, pastor of Clark Avenue Church, who, while endorsing the sentiments expressed, objected only to the insertion of the word "higher" before the words "Excise Commissioners" and "Board of Police Commissioners." He held that it exceeded the request of the president of the anti-slavery crusade and might unjustly discriminate.

The rest of the day was spent in discussing the church's attitude toward temperance.

The Reverend Doctor T. E. Sharp, pastor of Wagoner Place Church, took the position that Southern Methodist preachers and members should "vote as they pray." He said that he supported the appointment of a lawyer as Excise Commissioner or a member of the Police Board, that it is time for the Southern Methodist Church to wake up and make its moral influence felt among temperance lines; that the church as such must get over its ultra-conservatism, and that its power lies on this and all other issues.

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We demand early municipal ownership of all utilities of the State of Illinois; and with the object before us of enacting Republican legislation, directed against the interests of the people of the State for the benefit of the few, and recognizing the evils that grow out of private ownership of public utilities.

"We demand early municipal ownership and the control of all public franchises and all other natural monopolies which of right belong to the people.

"We declare that in all cities of the State not already robust of their birthright under the Constitution, the proposed legislation, no street railway franchises shall be extended which do not involve the following five cardinal principles:

"Compensation, based upon percentages of gross receipts.

"Reduction of fares during the crowded hours.

"Better accommodations for the public.

"Municipal acquisition of the lines at the expiration of the grant.

"Submission to the public of all documents, grants, extensions of franchises before the franchise is granted.

"And we condemn the cowardly equivocation of the recent Republican State Convention in withholding a public declaration of the franchise rights of the railroads of Illinois.

"Favoring the general principle of the initiative and referendum, and endeavoring to secure an expression and enforcement of the people's will."

While we are in no doubt of the position of the Democrats of the State there is a suspicion that all the Democratic members will not follow the lines set forth in the State platform.

Indeed, the Republican members are not bound by any platform promises and the Democrats are not disposed to solidly support the principle, the outlook for municipal ownership at the coming session is not very bright.

Chicago's Street Railway Bill.

The Chicago City Council has formulated a bill to give the city the right to lease or construct under this act any city roads to provide measures for the street railway and to be imposed by the ordinance.

O. F. Schindler, Mr. Schindler has for many years been a prominent official with the railroads of Mexican railways. He points to the fact that the average of New Orleans admit the greatest interest that can accrue to the business interests of that city through the establishment of the head office of the Illinois Central. The Illinois Central, Erie and the surrounding territories, recognizing the improved shipping facilities of the new lines, will divert a great volume of traffic from the old lines, and it is significant fact that all the principal Mexican railways have recently established branch offices in St. Louis.

"We need a movement in this city like that in Baltimore and other Eastern cities, where the young people are running wild and such rascals wage and keep home from being immolated on the altar of lust."

He further said that it is his opinion that the city officials who stand closest to the liquor business have violated their oath of office.

Doctor R. D. Smart, pastor of Clark Avenue Church, who has written to the Governor, requesting that he appoint good, clean men on the Board of Police Commissioners and for Excise Commissioner.

The procedures to-day were preliminary to the real fight which will begin on January 1.

MILLIONS AT STAKE.

Another Hearing of the Celebrated Leake Case.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, Dec. 17.—Another hearing of the celebrated Leake estate case was held to-day before the State Court of Claims, in the City Court Building.

The struggle for the Leake millions, which have accrued from the estate of John George Leake, an old bachelor, who died in New York in 1852 under suspicious circumstances, has been going on for several years. At the time of Leake's death the estate was valued at \$60,000. Lawyers for the claimants say that at the lowest valuation, it is worth \$100,000 to-day, while the claimants insist that that valuation is not more than \$60,000.

The estate includes property in New York, Maryland, Missouri, Kentucky and Delaware. Claim is made to whole sections of Jersey City, Hoboken, Elizabeth, Dobbs Ferry and German Flatts. Money that has laid for decades in the treasury of New York Stock forms part of the little sum of \$100,000. New York City is also included, one of the traits being that on which the Cathedral of St. John the Divine is situated.

The proceedings to-day were preliminary to the real fight which will begin on January 1.

EXCURSION SLEEPING CARS TO LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO.

Leave St. Louis on "Katy Flyer" (M. & K. & T. Ry.) 6:30 p. m. every Tuesday via San Antonio. See "Katy's" Agent.

SPECIALTIES.

PAID ON CURRENT ACCOUNTS.
Mississippi Valley Trust Co.

MARRIED.

KATHY BARKER.—At the home of the bride, No. 635 North Nineteenth street, on December 17, at 3 p. m., Maggie Lewis, beloved daughter of John and Anna Knapp, to Joseph Barker, son of John and Anna Knapp.

Punnett will take place from family residence, No. 415 North Nineteenth street, on December 18, at 3 p. m., to Calvary Cemetery. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

Four short years of earthly bliss.

Then gave her back to God again.

FITZGERALD.—Suddenly, on Sunday, December 10, at 10 p. m., Martin, beloved husband of Margaret Fitzgerald, mother of Andrew and James, and father of Kathleen, died at home, aged 4 years.

Punnett will take place from family residence, No. 2406 West Chestnut street, Thursday, December 18, at 2 p. m., to St. Francis Xavier's Church, there to Calvary Cemetery. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

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